

THE
Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.—Jesus Christ.

Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.—A Voice from Heaven.

No. 32, Vol. XVII.

Saturday, August 11, 1855.

Price One Penny.

Twelfth General Epistle

OF THE PRESIDENCY, OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, TO THE SAINTS IN THE VALLEYS OF THE MOUNTAINS, AND THOSE SCATTERED ABROAD THROUGHOUT THE EARTH, GREETING:

(From the "Deseret News," April 25.)

BELoved BRETHREN:—

Under the blessings of an overruling Providence for our preservation, we have renewed obligations of thankfulness and praise to our Father in heaven, whose protecting care has turned aside the shafts of death, and sheltered us, as with a mantle, from the scourges and devastations which have been poured out upon the earth.

We have truly realized that His power has been over us for good, and that these distant vales have thus far proved a safe retreat, wherein the Saints have found quiet, health, prosperity, and peace, while the indignation of the Lord has partially visited the nations. Our hearts are full of joy when we reflect how kindly the Lord has overruled seeming evil for good, and turned the wrath of man to His praise, by delivering so many of His Saints from wicked Babylon, and from the power of their enemies, before these scenes of woe, confusion, and distress spread desolation and affliction over the earth. At the same time we feel anxious for those faithful Saints who are still obliged to

wait for deliverance in the midst of such fearful calamities.

The indications of the times and seasons, as they rapidly roll, are truly fulfilling the words of the ancient Prophet, that "the Lord has decreed a consumption upon the whole earth." In the dispensation of the last days, we are truly gratified with the faithfulness of the Elders in going forth to proclaim the fulness of the Everlasting Gospel to the children of men.

Although a great work yet remains to be accomplished, still it has been carried to the most distant portions of the earth; and been preached to many of the principal nations in their native tongue. In North America and Great Britain it has been extensively preached and published. It has been preached and published in the French, German, Italian, Danish, and Welsh languages. It is also translated, and ready for publication in the Hawaiian language, and will probably be published the ensuing season. In addition to the foregoing, it has been preached to the Spaniards, Norwegians, Sweden, Icelanders, and the inhabitants on the Danube,

the Nile, the Indus, and the Ganges. It has been freely offered, by the Elders of Israel travelling without purse or scrip, to all these nations, and to the people of Malta, Southern Africa, Ceylon, Siam, Australia, the largest and most populous of the Pacific Isles, and to many other nations and people in their native language. Among all to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed it has found more or less of Israel; but it is worthy of remark that in those countries which were favoured with the Gospel in the early ages of Christianity, that had the testimony of Jesus and his Apostles, we find the grossest darkness and idolatry, and the least susceptibility to the principles of our holy religion, while among the more enlightened portions, such as Western Europe, the English settlements in Australia, and America, and in the United States, it is more readily received by the honest and sincere enquirer after truth.

The missions during the past year have been usually successful. We have received intelligence from Australia which shows a considerable increase of numbers, and a constantly increasing inquiry after a knowledge of the truth. From brother Jesse Haven, who is still presiding and preaching in Cape colony, we learn that quite a Branch has been raised since his arrival, mostly among the English settlers.

At Ceylon the missionaries were badly treated, and were soon obliged to leave the Island. In Siam they have been permitted to remain, but have made very little impression, except among the English, a few of whom have embraced the Gospel. This mission has been in the immediate charge of brothers Ludington and Savage, under the Presidency of Bishop Nath. V. Jones, whose location is at Calcutta. In this place also, as well as Bombay, Burmah, and the Northern provinces of India, small interest has been awakened, and that mostly among the English; but the majority of them being soldiers in the British army, the Officers frequently prohibit their attending the meetings, or in any wise associating with the Saints. They also use a very powerful interest against our brethren in all their labours, even with the natives. In Hamburg, and in several of the European States, our Elders have frequently been imprisoned, and finally banished from their dominions. But in all of those places the word has

been sown, and the native brethren, who have a right to remain, are preaching and teaching, as opportunity occurs, thereby laying a foundation which will eventually result favourably to the cause of Zion, by opening the way for the spread of the Gospel, and breaking asunder the bonds of bigotry, superstition, and darkness, which have so long enthralled the earth.

In England, Scotland, the Orkney Isles, Ireland, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, the Channel Islands, some portions of the United States, the British Provinces, and the Pacific Isles, the work has been and is prosperous, continually adding to the Church, and opening new and more extended fields of labour.

In our own Territory we have been blessed with health, peace, and prosperity unequalled. Crops matured, and were more plentiful than ever before in these Valleys, although much damage was done by grasshoppers in the month of July, and there was hard frost and ice on the 30th of May, and the 15th Oct. It is the first time since we settled in these Valleys, that we could say there was a surplus of grain raised for the inhabitants, and although an unexpected, unusual, and large amount has been drawn for the U. S. troops who quartered among us during the winter, from the 2nd of Sept. to the present time, we still believe there will be an abundance to last until replenished by another harvest.

Our public works have steadily progressed. The adobe wall around the Temple Block has been completed, and a large amount of the stone coping prepared, and some put on. The endowment house on the Temple Block is finished, and a large share of the Temple foundation is laid. The Sugar Factory, on Big Canyon Creek has been put into operation, and the South Wing of the State House, at Fillmore City, is in progress of completion.

The Seventies have built a commodious hall which has been very constantly occupied during the winter, although it was not begun to be built until the 13th of August.

Country and city improvements have been extensive, astonishing every beholder with the eminent success and prosperity which have attended all our exertions. How truly may we attribute all these blessings to that kind Father who has shield-

ed us from our enemies, and showered down His blessings upon us. He has caused the earth to bring forth, in its strength, the grain and rich fruits thereof for the sustenance of man. The elements have also been propitious, and the moistening nurture of the "early and latter rains" has not been withheld; neither have the mountain streams failed to furnish their usual supply. There has also, a much greater supply of goods been brought into the Territory, than heretofore, for which, however, the demand seems constantly increasing, although large amounts of clothing are manufactured by the people. Home manufactures and productions have been a part and portion of our domestic economy, and should be practised by every Saint. It is the only path in which we can walk with any assurance of securing our freedom, and of perpetuating that liberty which we inherit, as a rich legacy, from our ancestors and our God.

Our holy religion brings us in contact with long established error, and the traditions of centuries, which are prevalent throughout the world; hence are we necessarily a peculiar and separate people, whose best interests and preservation depend upon union and self-dependence, upon practising virtue, industry, and sobriety, and manifesting our faith by our works in magnifying our Priesthood, and in serving our God by keeping ourselves pure and unspotted in this wicked and adulterous generation.

For this cause we gather out from the world, and for this cause we should rely upon our own skill and ability to produce, from the native elements, every article of food and raiment necessary for our use or comfort.

Brethren, be wise, and eschew foreign productions as articles not suitable or designed for Israel, and draw your supplies from nature's great storehouse, the rich and abundant, though undeveloped, resources with which we are surrounded, and which are clearly within our grasp.

As wickedness, discord, and confusion continue to prevail and increase upon the earth, the Saints will discern that the time is not far distant, when they will probably be obliged to pursue this course for their own salvation. How much easier then for them to be preparing when surrounded with peace and prosperity. How much better to do what is proper, and ne-

cessary to be done, under the most favourable circumstances, than to wait until stern necessity compels. We say, then, to the brethren and sisters in all these Valleys of the Mountains, learn how to make your own clothing, and encourage the home manufacturer and producer; and let those who intend to come here to reside bring all manner of labour-saving machinery, and such articles for its construction as cannot be readily procured here. Also bring cotton and teasel seed, and seeds for raising all kinds of vegetable dyestuff, and all kinds of fruit and flower seeds, also grafts, and grape cuttings; procure and drive the best kinds of stock. And let those who have the things now named preserve them with care, that the best of all kinds of fruit and stock may be cultivated, and the poorer qualities improved, that in our midst may be found an abundance of every thing that will contribute to use and comfort, or that will delight the eye or beautify the earth. For the encouragement of fruit growers, we merely mention the fact that, for the last four years, peaches have ripened upon trees growing from seed planted by us, since our location in these Valleys, and apple trees have, though in less quantities, been bearing two years, and bid fair to produce much fruit the present season.

On the 27th of June, the Conference appointed at the adjournment of the April Conference, commenced, and was held two days, during which many missionaries were sent to the United States, among whom was Elder John Taylor, of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, who was to proceed to New York city, with the view of there publishing a newspaper. John Smith, son of Hyrum, was chosen Presiding Patriarch over the whole Church, and was ordained to that office with all the keys and authority thereof, on the 18th of February. This was to fill the vacancy which occurred by the death of our beloved and lamented Patriarch, Father John Smith, who died on the 22nd of May, 1854, aged seventy-three.

Father John Smith was the brother of Joseph Smith, senior, who was the father of the Prophet and was the first Patriarch in the Church. He was succeeded in that office by his son Hyrum, upon whom he conferred it before his death, and after his decease, father John Smith was chosen, Hyrum having no son old enough to fill the office at that time. The respected

and beloved Patriarch went to his rest, full of days and honour, having run his race with patience and endured unto the end, and was lamented by thousands upon whom he had laid his venerable hands to confer a patriarchal blessing, by virtue of his holy office and Priesthood. He will long be remembered by the Saints as a father whose blessings were counted of great value, and which will remain a comfort and consolation through all the various changes of life's pilgrimage in the flesh. Having suffered persecution in common with us and our brethren who have gone before, he was broken in body; and although permitted to live a few short years in quiet and peace in the Valleys of the Mountains, still the infirmities were upon him which were caused by the many exposures and troubles through which it has been the lot of the Saints to travel; but the vigour of his mind and intellect remained unimpaired to the last.

Thus has another of the noble men of the earth gone to his rest, prepared to come forth with glory, immortality, and eternal life, when the keys of the resurrection shall be given unto the Priesthood of the Almighty to again administer its power upon the earth.

During the past year we have enjoyed tranquillity with native tribes, having concluded a treaty of peace with the Indian Chief, Walker, whom we met for that purpose at Chicken Creek, in Juab County, on the 11th day of May last. We have great cause to acknowledge the hand of the Lord in restraining these savages from literally drenching our settlements with the blood of the Saints, and in preserving our brethren from utter destruction for nothing but His Almighty power has prevented such a catastrophe.

Some of the settlements seeing, and feeling by sad experience the imminent peril they were in, have undertaken to partially secure themselves by fortifications, &c.; but we are grieved at being obliged to say that these defences generally remain in an unfinished condition, and many of them are of but little value. How long the Lord will continue to extend His protecting care, and indulge His people in such inexcusable carelessness, and indifference to His counsel and gentle admonition, remains to be seen. It appears that the very moment when peace again smiles upon us, danger is forgotten, and we at once relapse into the same care-

less indifference which has always characterized our actions in these Valleys, so far as regards our being well prepared to meet our deadliest enemies. We say unto you, brethren, do not longer indulge in such criminal neglect, do not longer trifle with the counsel and urgent entreaties of your brethren, but improve the present moment of peace and prosperity for making yourselves secure, and in preparing against a day of trouble.

Towards the Indians continue to exercise patience, charity, and forbearance; give them your faith for their reclamation from their low estate; pray for them, and teach them also, that the principle of improvement and enlightenment may possess their minds never again to be rooted out, that they may learn the ways of the Lord and rejoice in the true knowledge of the God of their fathers.

We realize that the Lord has been gracious, and is answering the prayers and supplications of the Saints in their behalf. We realize that His Spirit has been poured out upon them, and to this cause we attribute the power which has restrained them from more extended and active hostilities. We exhort you to feed and clothe them as heretofore, but never lose an opportunity of learning them to work, in order to gradually teach them the way to industriously provide for their own wants, a course mutually more beneficial than to sustain them in idleness. Providentially, indeed, have we been thrown into their midst, bringing with us our holy religion, and our civilization. As we have been abundantly blessed with the good things of the earth since we came, let us impart freely unto these degenerate sons of Israel, of such as we have received, and not, as is too often the case in the conduct of the whites towards them, condescend to their level, thereby debasing ourselves and abusing their confidence, but seek to raise and exalt them to us, that they may in very deed become "a white and delightful people," in whom the Lord can take delight, even as in days of old.

Indian chief, Walker, died after a few days illness, near Fillmore city, on the 29th of January; and the Utahs have chosen his brother, Sam-a-rook, commonly known among the whites by the name of Arrow-head, to be their chief.

Owing to the ignorance of the Indians, and to their having so little understanding of the nature and obligations known to

civilization, the laws have seldom been enforced against them. However, in the case of the unprovoked murder of two of the boys of Bishop Weeks, of Cedar valley, while engaged in getting wood and poles from the canyon; two Indians, the principal actors in that scene, were hung on the 16th of last September; having been tried and convicted before the U. S. District Court, the Hon. Judge Shaver presiding. Again, in the case of the massacre of Capt. Gunnison and party by the Paviots Indians, in the fall of 1853, a number of them were tried at Nephi, before the Hon. Judge Kinney, of the U. S. District Court of that district, which resulted in three of them being convicted of murder in the second degree, and they were sentenced to the extent of the law of the United States in such cases made and provided. In this case, we understand that there were many extenuating circumstances which appeared to mitigate, on the part of the Indians, the perpetration of this horrid massacre. It was a time of war between the whites and the Indians, and this particular band had just previously suffered the loss of one of their chief men by a party of white emigrants, who killed him while passing through their country, without even a cause of provocation. This so enraged the Indians, that although they had not previously participated in the war, they straightway commenced gathering up their forces to come against the settlements, and to join the other Indians already engaged in hostilities. It was at this moment that Capt. Gunnison and party arrived in their country, while prosecuting his duties in exploring a location for a railway across the continent, thus furnishing them that opportunity for retaliation which they were so earnestly seeking, and which was so fearfully visited upon the innocent. This should prove a lesson to all travellers who wantonly shoot the Indians; for though they may pass in safety, peradventure the very next travellers may fall victims, as a consequence of their inconsiderate and worse than savage barbarity. All persons having knowledge of law and at the same time treating the Indians so inhumanly, should be held responsible for the results of their acts; which, as in the case of the lamented Gunnison, are almost certain to be visited, on the first opportunity, upon some who were entirely unconnected with the aggression.

It cannot be expected of the Indians, in

their present low and ignorant condition, with all their traditions and ferocious natures upon them, to understand and act in accordance with the provisions of law which they never had the least knowledge of, nor any opportunity for obtaining such information. Therefore it becomes those who profess civilization to set them an example, and not, while pretending to execute law upon them, be more brutal and murderous than they are with each other. Let all such persons consider these facts and act wisely, lest the blood of their victims be found upon their own skirts; and brethren, be careful lest you also trample upon the "oil and the wine," make shipwreck of your faith, and lose your salvation in the kingdom of our God.

At the October Conference several of the brethren, who had been absent on foreign missions, were present, having returned with many Saints; and although the last company did not arrive until the 28th of October, it was a time of rejoicing with us all, but especially with those who, having safely passed through death and suffering, were permitted to associate in peace with those having a common faith with themselves, and to listen to the instructions of the servants of God in Zion. Every countenance beamed with joy, and nothing occurred, during the three days which the Conference lasted, to mar, or in the least disturb, the peace and unity which universally prevailed. Elder Horace S. Eldredge was chosen to take the place of Jedediah M. Grant as one of the seven Presidents of the Seventies.

Since the October Conference, but little has occurred differing from the usual routine of our business.

The winter has been unusually mild, and work has progressed in many respects, almost as well as in the summer.

The Legislature held their usual session of forty days, and adjourned to meet on the second Monday in December next, in the new State House in Fillmore city.

Various associations for religious, literary, and scientific purposes have been formed, and much useful instruction has been imparted, as also in many evening and day schools, which have generally been kept in operation during the winter, in all the wards. Amusements have also had their time and place, and, with the exception of a little disturbance caused by a few disorderly U. S. troops, a general

time of quiet, good order, and peace, has prevailed in all the settlements.

In accordance with their respective appointments, Elder John Taylor repaired to New York, Franklin D. Richards to Liverpool, Erastus Snow to St. Louis, Orson Spencer to Cincinnati, and Parley P. Pratt to California.

Owing to the irregularity of the Eastern mail, we have but little information concerning their success; but have learned that a stake has been established at St. Louis, and that a newspaper called the "Luminary," is published weekly. We have not yet learned whether other stakes have been established, or whether other papers have been published; though a press has been obtained in California, which will be put in operation the ensuing summer, under the charge of Elder George Q. Cannon.

Elder Amasa Lyman still labours at San Bernardino, California, and the remainder of the Twelve Apostles are at present with us, labouring as opportunity occurs in the various settlements of Utah.

Elder George A. Smith is still engaged on the History of Joseph Smith, and will in a few months probably have it finished and ready for the press.

At this April Conference just adjourned, the reports and exhibits of the financial affairs of the Perpetual Emigrating Fund Company, and of the Church, were fully presented, from which it appears that the capital stock of the P. Emigrating Fund Company, amounts to \$71,005,144, although scarcely a dollar of it is at present in available means that can be used for the purpose of emigrating the poor Saints. This arises from those who are in debt to the Fund neglecting to pay for their emigration. There is now owing to the Fund, from this source alone, about fifty-seven thousand dollars, which, if it could be realized in available means, would very much increase the operations of the Company, and assist many thousands to come, who are looking and praying for deliverance through this source. By every light in which it can be viewed, the brethren who have been assisted by this Fund, for their own, for their brethren's, and for the kingdom's sake, should cancel their obligations thereto. The subject of emigrating the poor Saints, taking them from the overpopulated districts of the older countries, where, with their utmost labour, they can scarce

procure subsistence, and where lack of employment frequently renders life itself precarious, and bringing them to a land where by industry they can soon acquire a competence, and rise in the scale of intellectual existence; commends itself to all the Saints, and is worthy of their faith and most active benevolence.

The reports of the financial affairs of the Church show that the resources have been generally invested in buildings, and making public improvements, such as the Council and Endowment House, Tabernacle, wall around the Temple Block, store houses, Temple, &c. In order to successfully prosecute our business, we find it necessary to have a considerable amount of active capital to enable us to furnish materials, and supply clothing and articles necessary for those who are constantly engaged in the public service.

The tithing furnishes our resources for all of our public improvements, and this is generally paid in grain, vegetables, stock, waggons, labour, and other property, and but very little in money, and with the exception of what is needed for the use of the men employed, has to be turned into cash to procure such other articles as are necessary for properly prosecuting business. The constant investment of the funds of the Church in permanent improvements, trouble of changing, and delay in converting into cash, sometimes unavoidably involve us in debt; but if the brethren will be faithful and punctual in paying their tithing in kind, it will relieve us of all embarrassment, and furnish sufficient for all the needful purposes for which it is used.

Brethren, as you wish to hasten the building of a Temple, and the rolling forth of the work of Zion's King, put your shoulders to the wheel, render effective aid to her cause, and make her interest your own. Remember that all you do to favour Zion is only favouring your own interest, that it is for yourselves that you are labouring and toiling in the kingdom of God; rejoice therefore in your labours, and consider the reward which is laid up at the end of the race. It should be deemed a blessing as well as duty, to have this privilege. No greater favour could be bestowed upon this people than they enjoy in having a part and lot in this matter, in being the humble instruments in the hands of the Great Jehovah, in bringing to pass His purposes upon the earth

in these the last days, in being the recipients of the eternal truth, light, and knowledge emanating from Heaven's King, in whom is all excellence, power, and glory.

Incomparable delight and happiness fill the soul of the faithful Saint, who has the testimony of Jesus and the Spirit of the living God to enlighten his understanding. Happiness supreme and love divine fill his bosom, as he seeks to impart the gladsome intelligence to his fellow species, that they also may be partakers with him in the glorious cause, and share in its blessings. Thus our holy religion absorbs every feeling, desire, ambition, motive, and action of our natures, and renders every association in life tributary thereto; it forms the vitality of our very existence; it enters not only into our spiritual but also into our temporal organization, and controls us in all our affairs. This is true of every person who has tasted the good word of life, has received the Holy Ghost, and continues to walk in the light, and be led by its gentle influence. This is salvation in the kingdom of God, it is glory celestial, and exaltation. This is the work that makes angry the adversary, who fears the overthrow of his kingdom and power upon the earth, that causes Satan to rage and seek to destroy the Saints of the Most High, as he did in the days of Jesus and of his Apostles and followers.

Hence the persecution and martyrdom which wasted the faithful from the earth, and caused the apostasy of the ancient Church. The world overcame and destroyed them, and seek to overcome and destroy us, for they are actuated by the enemy of all righteousness, the arch deceiver, who desires the overthrow of the work of God. Therefore, brethren, be on your guard, be faithful in prayer and watchfulness, in faith and good works, lest you enter into temptation and darkness comes upon you; lest you get bewildered and led astray, and unwarily imbibe an apostate spirit which will lead you to deny the faith.

The consecrations of the Saints have been delayed for a time, in order to obtain the form of a deed which should be legal, in accordance with the laws of the Territory. This has now been accomplished, and many are deeding their property to the Church. We wish it distinctly understood that no person deeds his property unless he feels it to be a privilege, and

prefers to do so of his own free will and choice. Neither do we wish any person to deed any property which is encumbered by debt, or liabilities. Pay what you owe, and then if you would be independent, keep out of debt, improve upon your inheritances, and the stewardship which is committed to your trust, that being found faithful over a few, you may be made ruler over many things.

Let the Saints abroad in the world devote all they have for the spread of the Gospel, the gathering of Israel, and helping the poor, who are faithful and true, to come to Zion; and it is believed there are means sufficient among the Saints in England, and other places, if properly distributed, to emigrate all the faithful. If those having means would be liberal enough to freely impart to the needy, simply retaining sufficient to accomplish their own emigration, and trusting in the Lord for future means of subsistence, they would be blessed by the Lord and their brethren, and rejoice in having wrought salvation and deliverance to many of the meek who shall inherit the earth.

Let those brethren who are willing to devote their means in this way, do so in wisdom, by giving it into the hands of our authorized agents, whom we have appointed to that business, and not pay it, as is too frequently the case, to irresponsible persons who scatter it to the winds without doing any good. Let all things be done in order, and through the proper channel.

It is a very common occurrence for those having means when they come into the Church, to lose every dollar, by their business transactions with the world, before they gather with the Saints, or have contributed much to aid the cause of Truth. When stripped of every thing, they are ready to come, regretting that they had not devoted their means for the building up of the Lord's, instead of the devil's kingdom.

The best way is for the Saints, when they first come into the Church, to close up their business, as soon as they conveniently can without too great a sacrifice, and then "gather up for Zion," without unnecessary delay; for the devourer and tempter are abroad in the earth, and the Lord has commenced His pleadings with the people by "fire and by sword, by pestilence, famine, and tempest;" escape

therefore, while the way is open before you.

To all the honest in heart throughout the world, both of high and low degree, we say "repent, and be baptized for the remission of your sins," obey the ordinances of the Gospel through the administrations of the servants of the living God, for the judgments of the Almighty are upon you, flee therefore from the sinks of iniquity and corruption, lest the fiery indignation of the Lord also consume you with the wicked, of whom He has decreed that He will empty the earth.

Saints in the Valleys of the Mountains, unto you we say, raise grain, sow, plant, water, and harvest in the proper seasons thereof; cultivate no more land than you can cultivate well, save and preserve your grain, that nothing be lost; take care of your animals that they be not stolen by the Indians, or driven off by the white thieves who annually make their predatory excursions through our settlements; fence pastures for your stock, that you may preserve the grass in your immediate vicinity

for their use; and let the transient herds pass beyond the settlements, to where range is plenty and not occupied, and there will be less danger of their mingling with those belonging in the Territory.

Prepare good granaries for your grain, where it can be kept safe, and clean from dust, and lay up your surplus in store, against a time of need.

Finally, brethren, be one in faith and in effort, and walk humbly before the Lord. Keep sacred His commandments, and your covenants. Seek continually unto Him for wisdom and knowledge, that you may enjoy the light of His Spirit, and be thoroughly furnished to fulfil every duty incumbent upon you, by virtue of the Holy and Eternal Priesthood of Almighty God with which you are clothed, in a manner that shall best subserve the advancement and rolling forth of His Kingdom upon the earth.

BEIGHAM YOUNG,
HEBER C. KIMBALL,
JEDEDIAH M. GRANT.

The Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 1855.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—*Deseret*.—By the mail from Utah on the 23rd ult., we have received intelligence through both the *Deseret News* and private letters, which is truly edifying, interesting, and instructive, a portion of which will be found in this number of the *Star*. As it takes some time to partake of and digest so rich a feast, we have reserved a goodly portion of it for future use, and it will appear in due time. A pressure of business the present week prevents our noticing some of the most interesting items in the General Epistle and the letter from President Young, as we would wish to, but at a future time we shall endeavour to call the attention of our readers to such items as are of peculiar interest. In the meantime we would recommend the Saints to give them a careful and diligent perusal, and endeavour to drink in of that pure spirit of intelligence in which they are written.

Notwithstanding the ragings of the devil, the audible groaning of hireling priests, and the boiling over of some of the political and military skimmings from the seething pools of corruption in the United States, every year witnesses the rapid march of Utah onward and upward in the scale of political, moral, social, and intellectual improvement.

As the lone star of the mountains increases in brilliancy and splendour, the searching nature of its rays becomes painful to the perverted visions of those who love the

darkness because it is a cover to their evil deeds, and who will dance to any tune that the father of lies may chance to whistle.

A day of retributive justice is at hand, a day of rewards, when every man will reap abundantly, according to the nature of the seed which he has sown.

The General Epistle of the First Presidency, and the letters of President Brigham Young and Elder G. A. Smith, give a very interesting and faithful description of the condition, prospects, and spirit of Utah up to the departure of the last eastern mail from that Territory. A few additional items we gather from the *Deseret News*. The April General Conference was well attended, the weather was propitious, and unanimity of feeling pervaded the assemblies of the Saints. During the Conference 154 persons were voted to go on missions, 15 of whom left the Valley, May 7, on missions to the British Isles and the United States. Elder C. C. Rich, one of the Twelve, started May 10, on his return to San Bernardino. He was accompanied by Elders George Q. Cannon, Joseph Bull, and Matthew F. Wilkie, who went from the *Deseret News* office, and were bound for San Francisco, to assist Elders Parley P. Pratt and Orson Hyde in establishing a printing office in that city for the purpose of publishing the Book of Mormon in the Hawaiian language, a newspaper, and such other publications as the cause of truth might require.

The *News* of April 18 requests us to insert the following—"Died on the 20th Feb., 1855, at Cedar City, Iron County, Utah Territory, aged 27 years, Elder John T. Morris. Elder Morris was a native of Llanfair-Talhaiarn, Denbighshire, North Wales, Great Britain, was baptized into the Church of Latter-day Saints, on the 7th October, 1850, at Manchester, England; and at the time of his death was a member of the 37th Quorum of Seventies, in G. S. L. City."

San Bernardino—The *News* gives the report of a Conference held in the Bowery at San Bernardino, Sep. 29, 31, and Oct. 1 and 8. The Branch at that place was represented to number of the Twelve 2, High Priests 37, Seventies 49, Elders 41, Priests 9, Teachers 3, Deacons 2, total number of members 960. The following persons were appointed on missions—to Valparaiso, South America, William Hyde, Lewis Jacobs, Isaac Brown, and John Brown; to Mississippi and Alabama, Benjamin Matthews, and H. H. Blackwell; to Oregon and Washington Territory, John Hughes, Clark Faben, Alfred Bybee, and Silas Harris; to San Diego, W. J. Cox, and William Matthews; to the Monte and Los Angeles, Q. S. Sparkes, B. F. Grouard; to Santa Barbara, William D. Kartchner, Thomas Matthews, and John Matthews. During the Conference 73 children were blessed, 60 or 70 persons baptized or rebaptized, and about 30 young men ordained Elders.

DEPARTURE.—The ship *Cynosure*, Captain Pray, sailed on Sunday the 29th ult. for New York, with 159 souls of the Saints on board, under the Presidency of Elder George Seager, with Elder William Rogers and William J. Silver as Counsellors.

It is impossible for us to determine at present when our next vessel will sail, but it will be as soon as a ship's complement of passengers can be made up. In the mean time we would say to those who have determined to emigrate the first opportunity, do not delay sending in your deposits.

SEMI-ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT.—Not having received complete returns from some of the missions under our Presidential charge, we shall not publish our usual Semi-Annual Report. We hope that the Pastors and Presidents of missions will be prompt in forwarding us their Annual Reports by the proper time.

Foreign Correspondence.

DESERET.

*Iron Manufacture—Crops—U. S. Officers—
The Emigration.*

President's Office, Great Salt Lake City,
May 31st, 1855.

Elder F. D. Richards.

Dear Brother—Your letters of January 26th and March 2nd, also copy of instructions from you to John S. Fullmer, "Managing Conductor" of the P. E. F. emigration this season, have been received.

I have just returned from my southern trip to Iron County. I find that they have succeeded at last in making an excellent quality of malleable iron, and would now be doing an excellent business, if they only had sufficient means to go on with. Just as they got well a going, and were making about a ton of good iron a day, they had to blow out for the want of help to haul ore and coal. I purpose sending out some more help from here, but they need a little more means to pay help with; but I consider that they are doing well. They have got the good iron at last, and have learned the process of making fluxing, &c., which you know was so difficult until they became acquainted with it. It takes time, patience, and perseverance to accomplish such a work in a new country, and to get them into successful operation; but I feel now as if the worst was over, and will soon be able to pay well, and become of great benefit to the Territory, as well as a source of income to the Company.

I found the brethren generally well, and in good spirits; had a very pleasant visit in the settlements, and returned in good health to the city, after an absence of 19 days.

Prosperity still attends all our efforts, and peace and quietness universally prevail. We are progressing rapidly with the Temple and our other works this season. The grasshoppers continue quite bad, but I think are diminishing. Many of the farmers are re-sowing their wheat, planting corn, &c.

Brother Hyde has taken his departure

to Carson Valley, and brother Rich to San Bernardino; Col. Steptoe and command are gone to California, and Judge Kinney and District Attorney Holman leave with this mail for the States, with the intention of returning the ensuing fall. Some think that Judge Kinney is going to procure for himself the office of Governor, and Holman that of Secretary.

Judge Kinney leaves his family, and it is said Holman is going to bring his back with him; if he does, I think his return this season rather uncertain; and it is quite possible that they both tarry until another year before they get back. If they should, and we should not have another recruit of soldiers, and our *sometime friend* Babbitt should go out this fall, as he somewhat contemplates, we should certainly feel much relieved, and have nothing to mar our peace. But it is 'most too much to look for all at once, however desirable; but there is one consolation which we have with us all the time, no matter how much they may annoy us, they can do nothing against the truth, nor go one particle farther than the Lord has a mind to let them. We feel this assurance continually, that the Lord of Hosts will overrule all for the best good of His people.

I am happy to learn of you forwarding so many Saints to America, a goodly number of which I doubt not will find their way to Utah. There are very many of the really poor, and faithful, which I wish to have helped out as soon as possible. I believe it helps the cause, not only by coming to assist in the works of Zion, but has a beneficial influence in the world, and aids those who go to proclaim the Gospel, in obtaining hearers and believers. Where the Saints remain year after year in the world, it becomes so much of an old story, that it attracts less attention, and people grow more indifferent about the testimony of the truth, than they do by not always having the Saints of God in their midst. It works favourable therefore in every light in which it can be presented. I have but little doubt, that if 20 out of the 30,000 Saints should immigrate within the next year or two,

your reports of numbers would be rather increased than lessened.

I am glad to learn there is but one class of Fund passengers this year. I cordially approve of this measure, as it will save much perplexity to our agents, and prove equally beneficial, and will create less complaint and dissatisfaction among the brethren.

If brother Fullmer carries out your instructions, I think we shall be able to get at the accounts of the passengers with less difficulty than heretofore. We have always succeeded in making out their indebtedness, and placing them upon the books of the Company, but it has always been attended with more or less difficulty. I consider brother Fullmer very careful to act as agent, and trust he will do well.

Brother Snow is the proper person to act in concert with you in Saint Louis, in the emigration.

I shall attend at my earliest convenience to the request of brother Tyler, and the Switzerland Mission, as also your request of inserting in the *News* of your removal to 36 Islington.

I am rejoiced to learn of your good health, and the general prosperity which seemingly attends all your efforts, and am truly thankful for the favourable reports which I receive from my son, and the boys, as well as the Elders generally, and pray the Lord continually in their behalf, that they may be preserved pure and holy, and accomplish a good work. I have scarcely time to animadvert upon the signs of the times, the downfall of tyranny, the plagues, pestilence, earthquakes, distress, and perplexity of nations, whether in war or peace, but can easily discern that they all have their hands full, and truly say, that I rejoice as I see the day approaching when the redeemed, the pure, the honest, and faithful shall triumph, and earth's commotions cease.

Please notify the brethren, that their families are all well, so far as I know, and they must receive this for all, as we have no time to write to others by this mail.

May the Lord bless you, brother Franklin, brother Spencer, and brother Little in the arduous duties which you have to perform, and strengthen you for the warfare which yet lies before you, is the prayer of your brother in the Gospel of Salvation,

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

Manufacture of Iron—Buildings and General Improvements—Tour to Iron County—The Grasshoppers—Missionaries to the Lamanites.

Historian's Office, Great Salt Lake City, . .
April 27, 1855.

Brother Franklin—As I am making preparations to leave the city on business to Iron County, I take the pleasure of saying to you, in my monthly correspondence, that business in our office has been moving on finely. Since the close of the Legislature, we have been making rapid progress on the History.

Health, happiness, and peace dwell in the midst of the Valleys. The weather is dry—rain much needed, and irrigation will have to take place, or the crops will receive damage.

Brother Isaac Haight has got the big furnace in operation at last, and is doing good business. By letter received yesterday from President J. C. L. Smith, I learn that 1700lbs. of good iron are produced every 24 hours. This is decidedly encouraging.

I expect to start for Iron County with the California Mail.

Presidents Young and Kimball will visit the southern settlements in the month of May. They have now gone north to visit the Saints.

The endowment house is finished and is a beautiful building.

The President's large house is progressing rapidly. Many gardens in the city are being fenced with a wall made of cobble stones and cement.

It is decided that our Temple will be built of granite, from the quarries between the Cottonwoods. A canal has been surveyed from the big Cottonwood to this city, by J. N. Fox and Ira Eldredge, for the purpose of boating the granite to this city. The granite is very beautifully variegated.

Grasshoppers have presented themselves in great numbers, and are already doing great damage in many neighbourhoods. Flocks of gulls have also shown themselves to-day, probably to look after the grasshoppers, and they forcibly remind us of the cricket war.

About 20 ox teams are engaged in bringing rock for the foundation of the Temple; they each bring two loads a day. The teamsters camp at the quarry over night, where their oxen feed on the

range, and make an early journey to the city in the cool of the morning.

The California mail arrived yesterday, bringing the first Number of *The Mormon*, the appearance of which is worthy the title it bears.

The gates are hung on the Temple wall, so as to entirely close up the square during the night.

The brethren are about building a fort at Paragona, in Iron County. A commencement was made there some two years since, but in consequence of the Indian war had to be abandoned.

A company is organized, and will start in a few days to form a settlement at the Los Vegas, on the south route to California.

Lieutenant Mourey takes a detachment of the U. S. troops by the south route to California; report says they are to be stationed at Fort Yuma on the Colorado. Another detachment will go to California by the north route.

Elder Hyde, accompanied by A. J. Stewart, surveyor, and about a dozen others, will start for Carson Valley in about 10 days.

Elder Lorenzo Snow is building a mill, and making a farm at Box Elder. About 25 families are going with him.

A beautiful row of trees has been planted round the Temple Block.

President Brigham has deeded his property, amounting to \$199,627.00, to the Trustee in Trust, and numbers are following his example.

The Deseret Theological Institution held its first public meeting on Wednesday evening last, in the Social Hall. President Young delivered the opening address.

May 31.

I left this city on the 29th April last, and rode to Lake City, where I preached at 3 p.m., ordained two brethren to the office of a Seventy, and set them apart for their mission to the Elk Mountain. I arrived at Provo in the evening. Colonel Steptoe's bridge is completed across the Provo river, and is a very good one, doing credit to the enterprise and good judgment of the colonel.

Monday 30th. I met with the missionaries, and ordained five into the Seventies, and set eleven brethren apart for their different missions. At their request I went with them to the water and re-baptized and confirmed them.

On Tuesday, May 1st, there was a May party got up by the ladies of Provo on behalf of the missionaries, which I attended, and it was a very pleasant affair.

On Wednesday, May 2nd, I went to Springville; the erection of the Springville wall had progressed rapidly since I was last there.

Thursday, May 3rd. Started with brother Miller for Iron County, and slept on the ground, soldier-like, at the Pungent Spring, although it was frosty enough to cover the water with ice. On Tuesday the 8th inst. I arrived at Parowan. It seemed quite comfortable to sleep on the ground in Father's big bed-room. I found the people of Parowan all well. The brethren were putting in crops at Paragona; in every settlement I had passed through there were myriads of grasshoppers; at Parowan there were none when I arrived there, but in a few days the little fellows began to appear in innumerable hosts. I spent my time for one week in settling with the brethren who had run the mills, and for the building of the grist mill, which is a stately building and doing good business.

On Friday, May 18, Presidents B. Young, H. C. Kimball, J. M. Grant, Elders W. Woodruff, C. C. Rich, and a large company arrived at Parowan. The Presidency preached in the evening in the Tabernacle. On Saturday the President and company went to Cedar City, and visited the iron works; the brethren were casting machinery to carry on the works. The President expressed himself well satisfied with what had been done. On the Sabbath the Presidency preached at the meeting house in Cedar City. The President advised the survey of a new city site, one mile above the present one. Ordained Isaac C. Haight President of the stake of Cedar City, and organized a High Council, returning to Parowan on Monday, where they preached in the afternoon.

On Tuesday morning started back for this city, where we arrived on Sunday 27th inst. at 9 a.m., having travelled fifty miles per day on the return trip.

The grasshoppers are making almost an entire destruction of all the early crops in the southern counties.

The Indians are very friendly, and many of them disposed to work. The President enjoyed his trip exceedingly well.

Colonel Steptoe and command have left

the Territory in different directions: one company to Oregon, one to the Colorado, and the balance west.

Elder Hyde and company have started for Carson Valley. The eastern Mail arrived here on the 12th inst. with twenty-seven bags of mail matter. This is a decided improvement in our mail facilities, they being somewhere about 4 months ahead of the usual *Oz Telegraph*; we

think there is yet room for improvement.

Twenty loads of rock are already on the ground towards building the Historian's office.

The coping on the wall on North side of Temple block is nearly completed, as also the Temple foundation.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE A. SMITH.

Home Correspondence.

LONDON, READING, KENT, AND ESSEX CONFERENCES.

35 Jewin Street City, London,
July 19, 1855.

Ed. Star.

Dear Brother—Having held our quarterly and half-yearly Conferences, I with pleasure proceed to give you a report of their spiritual and temporal condition.

Saturday, June 23rd, Elder Joseph France, with the Travelling Elders and Priesthood of the Reading Conference, met in their meeting room in the town of Reading, and gave a very favourable report regarding their labours during the previous three months. Notwithstanding the Conference had, by emigration, deaths, and excommunications, become reduced 93 members, their donations to the various funds amounted to about £30 more than at any previous time.

The Gospel has been introduced into a number of new places. Few have as yet been baptized, but the prospects are favourable and cheering.

On Sunday 24th, we had three meetings, and enjoyed a spirited and good time. The Priesthood and Saints were unanimous in sustaining the authorities of the Church, and evinced a union and determination of action only to be found among "Mormons."

I cannot help making mention here of the death of Elder John Newman, who travelled for about three years in the Reading Conference. In consequence of the hardships usually connected with the introduction of the Gospel into new places, his constitution gave way, consumption followed, and ended in his death on the 11th of February, 1855. He was a faith-

ful, good man, and delighted in nothing so much as to obey the counsel of those under whom he laboured. He was called to the ministry by Elder Thomas Squires, previous to which he was following the occupation of shepherd in the town of Wroughton, County of Wilts. With his last breath he bore testimony to the truth, and thanked God for the privilege of spending his life for the salvation of man.

Saturday evening, June 30th, I met with Elder T. B. Broderick, the Travelling Elders, and Priesthood of the Kent Conference, in a new meeting room, built expressly for the Saints, in Faversham.

With the exception of Elder Harrison, who was afflicted with cold, they enjoyed good health and spirits.

Their report, in regard to the prosperity of the work, was very favourable and encouraging. They had not baptized as many as could be wished, but had introduced the Gospel into about 50 new places, causing the devil to rage, and producing considerable of an excitement and persecution, if being knocked down and jumped upon, with an accompaniment of not very agreeable music, such as tin kettles, &c., can be styled as such. It is quite common for Scripture readers to call at the houses where the Elders leave their tracts, and, taking them away, leave word if they want them again they must go to the minister for them. They have done so, and have had the privilege of bearing their testimony to them regarding the "restoration of the Gospel." These manifestations, however, instead of discouraging the brethren, only tend to renew their diligence, feeling that where the enemy shows such symptoms of fear, there must be

some good, honest hearts waiting for the truth.

I mentioned to you some time ago that I had sent two Elders to labour in the neighbourhood of Tunbridge Wells, where there are about 120 villages in which the Gospel had not been preached. They have succeeded in getting a home, and have baptized two to begin with, and good prospects for a good harvest being reaped in that field.

I am happy to state also, that in temporal matters, book agents, &c., there is a decided improvement. During the last quarter they raised £15 2s. 4d. towards the Temple and Emigrating Funds, and in all other funds a proportionate improvement. In all general funds they raised £5 more than in any previous quarter. Sixty-two were added by baptism during the last six months.

On Sunday, the 1st of July, we had three good meetings. It was really heart cheering to behold the union pervading the assembly in voting to uphold all the authorities of the Church. Truly the Lord is with His people.

Saturday, July 7th, met with Elder James Marsden and the Presidents of Districts and Branches belonging to the London Conference, in Whitechapel meeting room. Their reports of the union and good works of the Saints, and the prospects of spreading the Gospel, were certainly encouraging. In this Conference we have 35 meeting rooms, and 128 Elders, who every Sunday and during the week, indoors and out, preach the Gospel, and bear testimony that God has set up His kingdom for the last time. Judging from the fact that Elder Marsden and the Priesthood of this Conference are united heart and hand in their determination to build up the kingdom of God, we feel to prophecy good regarding this modern Babylon and its vicinity. Two hundred and ten persons have been added by baptism during the six months, and the Saints increase in faith, which is manifested by their works. £123 6s. 3d. has been donated to the Temple Fund, £39 3s. 2d. to the P. E. Fund, during the half year, and all other funds good in proportion.

I am happy to be able to state, that in the condition of the book agency there is a great improvement. The sub-agents have given the profits arising from the sale of their books and *Stars*, to assist in

liquidating bad deb'ts. I must say that much credit is due to Elder William Malben, for the attentive and faithful manner in which he conducts the business of the London Book Depot, nor must I forget his kindness and attention, and that of his amiable partner, in superintending the domestic arrangements of the house, 35 Jewin Street. I am also much indebted to Elders Blake and Grimesdale, for their unwearied zeal in auditing the general agent's books every month, and taking account of stock every three months.

Sunday, the 8th, Conference convened in the Leicester Square Exhibition Rooms. We were favoured with the company of our esteemed President F. D. Richards, also C. H. Wheelock, Joseph A. Young, W. C. Dunbar, D. B. Dille, Joseph France, R. W. Wolcott, and Moses Clough, with whose testimonies and remarks the Saints were much refreshed and strengthened. During the whole day the Spirit of God seemed to beam on every countenance, and in voting to sustain the authorities in Zion, and throughout the world there was not a dissenting voice. It put me in mind of our Conference in the "Valleys of the Mountains."

In the evening President Richards and Elder Wheelock occupied the time in speaking upon the necessity of building a Temple, and the blessings to be received therein. They spoke by the power of the Holy Ghost. The Saints felt that it was good to be there, and regretted that the Conference could not be continued for three days instead of one.

Saturday, 14th of July, Elder H. Squires, with the Presidents of Branches and Districts belonging to the Essex Conference, assembled in their meeting room in Maldon, Essex, and gave in their reports. It was indeed cheering to witness the zeal and energy manifested by Elder Squires and the Elders travelling in this Conference, in spreading the Gospel in new places, and infusing among the Saints a spirit of liberality in upholding the various funds necessary for sustaining the temporal interests of the Kingdom of God. This little Conference has raised during the last three months for various funds £93 16s. 1d., £35 of which is their Temple Offering for the whole year ending 1855, £8 4s. 4d. P. E. Fund for the quarter. They have baptized 48 during the last three months, and, with the aid

of two Elders we sent out in addition to those already in the field, we expect a greater increase next quarter.

Sunday. Continued the Conference, and had a first-rate time. Many of the Saints from the surrounding villages attended. In voting to sustain the authorities, and all other matters brought before them, they were united. I feel to say God bless them.

In conclusion permit me to add, that I take great pleasure in my field of labour. The Presidents of Conferences—Elders J. Marsden, Joseph France, T. B. Broderick, and H. Squires, are united with me in all my movements, and the Priesthood working in unison with them makes matters go along very pleasantly, and, with the blessing of the Almighty, and the valuable counsel and instruction we receive through the *Star*, we anticipate doing a good work. May the Holy Spirit continually inspire our hearts with wisdom, and may our heavenly Father bless you with health, and prolong your life to do much good upon the earth, is the prayer of your servant and brother in the Kingdom of God,

W. H. KIMBALL.

SOUTHAMPTON AND DORSETSHIRE CONFERENCES.

Mr. Henley's, East Road, Bridport,
July 13, 1855.

Elder F. D. Richards.

Dear Brother—It is with much pleasure I write to inform you that the work of the Lord moves along satisfactorily to my feelings in this district; indeed a better feeling and more manifest desire on the part of the Saints to keep the commandments of God, I have never witnessed since I have had the honour to preside over them. Prospects brighten for a considerable accession to the Church of the honest-hearted among men.

The Priesthood are united, and the Temple Offering moves along as well as I could wish, all things considered; for the Saints manifest a determination to carry out every counsel given from time to time.

I feel much pleased with the manner

the Saints have responded to the call to build the Temple and liquidate their Book indebtedness; their works demonstrate they are in possession of a living faith, for no doubt exists upon my mind that the district apportionment for the Temple will be paid by the end of the September quarter, as well as a considerable reduction to our general *Star*, &c., indebtedness at Liverpool.

I received a letter yesterday from Elder Job Wellings. He feels well, and has commenced a course of lectures in Southampton. He states that intelligent gentlemen are investigating our principles.

I am sorry to have to inform you that the President of one of the Branches feels determined not to magnify his position in the Priesthood, for he never attends any of our meetings, and evidently desires to leave the communion of the Saints. I have laboured with him and done all I could to encourage him, but to no avail. The principal difficulty is, he has lost the Spirit of God, and his mind has become barren and unfruitful.

I look upon it, a man must keep pace with the rapid strides which the kingdom of God is now making, or it will leave him far in the rear, for not only his faith but his money must be dedicated to the Lord, to build His kingdom upon the earth. This is the great difficulty.

I have counselled Elder Job Wellings to preside over said Branch for the present, in connection with his other duties, and I assure you things move right.

I should not have troubled you with so minute a detail, had I not, when in Liverpool, brought the subject before your notice.

I am now with brother Woodward, and intend spending a few weeks with him. We had a good time last Sunday, it being Conference. An excellent spirit prevailed, for brother Woodward enjoys the love and confidence of the Saints.

Brother Richards, I hope you are enjoying good health; and praying your blessing upon my feeble labours, believe me to be, yours in the New Covenant,

JAMES G. WILLIE.

Varieties.

A CONVINCING PROOF.—A person who resided for some time on the coast of Africa, was asked if he thought it possible to civilize the natives. "As a proof of the possibility